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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1106
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LENINGRAD 0384

EO 11652GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, XF, UR, US
SUBJ: LENINGRAD PROPAGANDIST ON SECRETARY'S ME DIPLOMACY AND US-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. LENINGRAD PROPAGANDIST MARCH 23 CRITICIZED US DESIGNS IN MIDDLE EAST AS REPRESENTED BY LATEST TRIP OF SECRETARY KISSINGER. INTER ALIA, US "SECRET" DIPLOMACY SAID TO BE: AIMED AT SERVING ISRAELI INTERESTS AT EXPENSE OF ARABS; DESIGNED TO CREATE DIFFERENCES AMONG ARABS; AND ATTEMPT TO LESSEN SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AREA. IN US-SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS, PRESIDENT FORD CREDITED WITH CRITICIZING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON TRADE LEGISLATION AND CREDITS, BUT PROPAGANDIST ADDED THAT "A FEW AMERICAN DIPLOMATS AND OTHER POLITICAL CIRCLES CHOSE NOT TO UNDERSTAND SOVIET REACTION TO TRADE DISCRIMINATION." DESCRIBING EXTENT OF SOVIET TRADE WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN, AND RECEIPT OF LARGE CREDITS FROM THESE COUNTRIES, PROPAGANDIST NOTED THAT US ACTION OFFSET BY FACT THAT THERE ARE THUS OTHER
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"DESERVING TRADE PARTNERS." END SUMMARY.

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2. LENINGRAD ZNANIYE (KNOWLEDTE) SOCIET PROPAGANDIST YURIY F. SMIRNOV DEVOTED MOST OF PREPARED PUBLIC PRESENTATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS TO US DIPLOMACY IN MIDDLE EAST AND CHARACTERIZATION OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS. DURING PRESENTATION, HELD SUNDAY, MARCH 23, SMIRNOV NOTED PARENTHETEICALLY THAT HE WAS LEAVING THAT EVENING FOR TWO WEEK OFFICIAL TRIP TO EGYPT. FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT OF HIS REMARKS.

3. MIDDLE EAST

THERE ARE TODAY TWO COURSES BEING FOLLOWED IN RESOLUTION OF ME CRISIS. FIRST IS THE AMERICAN THEORY OF GRADUAL REGULARIZATION OF THE CONFLICT--THE KISSINGER APPROACH. THIS SEEKS THROUGH BILATERAL, SECRET DIPLOMACY TO BENEFIT ISRAEL BY CREATING DIFFERENCES AMONG THE ARABS AND LESSENING INFLUENCE OF SOVIET UNION IN AREA. THE OTHER COURSE IS REPRESENTED BY THE SOVIET POSITION ON SEEKING AN OVERALL RESOLUTION OF ME PROBLEMS THROUGH GENEVA CONFERENCE AND CARRYING-OUT OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. HOW DO THE ARABS VIEW THIS? UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE CERTAIN DIFFERENCES AMONG THE ARABS, AND AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HOPE THEY CAN USE THESE TO SEPARATE THEIR POSITIONS. THUS, KISSINGER'S PERSONAL DIPLOMACY IS A SERIOUS MATTER. KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL TO THE EGYPTIANS THAT ISRAEL WOULD EVACUATE SOME STRATEGIC POSITIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR EGYPTIAN GUARANTEES IS A NAKED ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE ARAB FRONT. LOOK AT WHAT CONSEQUENCES THERE COULD BE FROM THIS PERSONAL DIPLOMACY: IT COULD SPLIT THE EGYPTIANS OFF FROM THE OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES AND WEAKEN THE ARAB FRONT. KISSINGER'S THEORY, THE STEP BY STEP APPROACH, THUS HAS AS ITS MAIN AIM THE SERVING OF ISRAELI INTERESTS AT EXPENSE OF ARABWORLD.

4. US TRADE DISCRIMINATION

THE US TRADE REFORM LAW CONTAINS DISCRIMINATORY PROVISIONS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION IN EXTENSION OF CONFIDENTIAL

MFN AND CREDITS. AND NOT ONLY THE WELL KNOWN CONDITION ON SOVIET EMIGRATION; MFN WAS ALSO MADE SUBJECT TO REQUIRING COUNTRIES WHICH RECEIVE IT TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR GRAIN CROPS. THUS, JACKSON AND COMPANY MANAGED TO OVERTURN THE 1972 US-SOVIET TRADE AGREEMENT. PRESIDENT FORD HAS SPOKEN OUT ON THIS, NOTING THAT SUCH INTERFERENCE IS INAPPROPRIATE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. HE POINTED OUT THAT MILLIONS

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OF US WORKERS DEPEND ON EXPORT PRODUCTION FOR THEIR JOBS, THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS A VERY GOOD BUSINESS REPUTATION, AND THAT THE USSR WILL TURN TO US COMPETITORS IN WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN. UNFORTUNATELY, A FEW AMERICAN DIPLOMATS AND OTHER POLITICAL CIRCLES CHOSE NOT TO UNDERSTAND SOVIET REACTION TO TRADE DISCRIMINATION. BUT THE MAJORITY OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DO UNDERSTAND. JAPAN, THE FRG, FRANCE, AND NOW ENGLAND, HAVE INCREASING TRADE WITH THE USSR AND EXTEND LARGE CREDITS. THERE ARE THUS OTHER DESERVING TRADE PARTNERS. THERE IS A LOT OF NOISE IN THE US NOW ABOUT ALL OF THIS. KISSINGER, BUSINESS-MEN, AND EVEN OTHER CONGRESSMEN ARE COMPAINING ABOUT JACKSON, WHO IS ALLIED WITH THE MOST REACTIONARY RIGHTIST AND ZIONIST FORCES. THE WESTERN PRESS HAS OBSERVED THAT THIS MAY HARM JACKSON'S PROBABLE CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT IN 1976. THE US IS LOOKING AGAIN AT THE TRADE LAW AND UNDOUBTEDLY (BEZUALOVNO) CONGRESS WILL RECONSIDER (PERESMATRIVAT') IT.

5. STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS

THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS ON RESTRICTING STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE WEAPONS ARE NOT WITHOUT DIFFICULTY, BUT THEY ARE PROCEEDING SUCCESSFULLY. A TEN-YEAR AGREEMENT SHOULD BE READY FOR SIGNING BY THE TIME OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO THE US. THE VLADIVOSTOK MEETING BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND FORD WAS ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT FOR RECOGNIZING THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY; THIS WAS A GREAT POLITICAL VICTORY FOR THE SOVIET UNION.
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